

543 → 550

Phase 2 of Totila's war.

A war of attrition was waged on Italian soil,  
land & people suffered terribly

Jacobite Church

monophysite church of  
Syria and Iraq established

Bilissiys was recalled from the East to take up once more the western Command from which he had been transferred; his successor met with reverses

Belissarius had woefully fallen out of favor with Justinian and Theodora, but he was needed to cope with Totila. So in 543, he was sent to Italy. But he was never given a fair chance by his master. Instead of his devoted veterans he was allowed only a meager force of raw recruits with which to fight the Goths, whose

shaken morale had been thoroughly restored by a leader of brilliant ability and inspiring personality.

Betrosius could gain no decisive advantage

Spring 543

Totila was able to move into Naples, here it became clear that he had a long memory. Depending on whether the Italians had remained loyal to the Gothic cause since 535 or had betrayed it, they were rewarded or punished. The Neapolitans had nothing to fear from Totila, but TIBUR suffered a terrible fate when it was taken.

5243-615

St Columbanus was a  
famous Celtic missionary to  
the continent